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gary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Australia, and New Zealand rather fully, and a few other countries briefly. In several countries the laws affecting house construction and sanitation are mentioned and to some extent described. But emphasis is placed upon the following measures: tax exemption or tax reduction for improved houses, state loans or state-guaranteed bank loans to house builders, the leasing of land on easy terms by the state for house construction, expropriation laws, land increment taxation, municipal and state house building. The content of this report is thus very similar to that of the *First Annual Report of the Massachusetts Homestead Commission* published in 1914, but covers fewer countries and fewer types of housing policy and is, on the whole, more systematic in its treatment of the policies examined.

The only other recent work in English which covers this field is the *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Housing of Workmen in Europe and America*, prepared by Professor Robert F. Irvine of the University of Sidney for the legislative assembly of New South Wales and published in 1913. Professor Irvine, however, treats very largely of existing housing conditions and private methods for dealing with housing not covered by the United States report. Of all of the available material in English on this subject, therefore, the federal report is the most valuable for the countries treated. It is especially useful as a handbook of European public housing policy. The serious limitation upon the report is its purely descriptive character. The effects of housing legislation are granted only cursory treatment, where they are examined at all. The comparative utility of the measures outlined is not considered.

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*Work and Wages. In Continuation of Earl Brassey's "Work and Wages."* Part III. *Social Betterment.* By SIDNEY J. CHAPMAN. (London: Longmans, Green and Company. 1914. Pp. vii, 380. \$3.00.)

"Inheritance is from germ cell to germ cell. The degradation of the parent does not carry with it the degeneracy of the child." It is not the germ cells alone, however, but the germ cells and their culture (provided by environment), that make each society what it is. The racial stock remaining potentially the same, immense

betterment is possible in the social system. Improved environment means that fewer are ill-nourished and under-educated, and that fewer are born and bred in the dinginess which tends to destroy or prevent the sense of enjoyment. Accepting these underlying principles, Professor Chapman gives an admirable account of the following social problems: housing reform, public health, vocational guidance, labor conditions of home workers and shop assistants; and public charities. He writes with particular reference to living and working conditions in England today.

The housing problem, apparently, is as serious in the cities of the United Kingdom as it is in America. The haphazard growth of towns in the past has left as a heritage to the present the need of much costly site-clearing and rearrangement. The three evils which come to light when the present problem is analyzed are (a) over-crowding of areas, (b) over-crowding of families in houses, and (c) insanitary surroundings.

A far-sighted policy of town planning is suggested as the only way out of the present difficulty. A distinction is drawn between the idea of making a city convenient and beautiful as a whole, and the idea of making pleasant and healthful homes for the poorer classes. In the United States and in many continental cities the former idea has given the impulse to town planning. Interest in the welfare of small wage-earners is responsible in a large measure for town-planning movements in England.

In the chapter on public health, the author considers the very important question, whether physical deterioration is actually going on, and whether the waste of human energy by illness and needlessly early death can be and is being substantially reduced. He reaches the optimistic conclusion that there is little evidence to prove that the stock of modern communities is on the down grade, and that public authorities in England are beginning to see as never before the necessity of a vigorous campaign against disease. The familiar arguments for the proper feeding of school children, medical inspection of schools, and an educational policy which provides for continuation classes and efficient vocational guidance are restated under the heading, Training and Boy and Girl Labor.

An impressive situation comes to light in the discussion of the problems connected with home industry. Less than one hundred years ago factory work was popularly denounced because it took the workers from the home to the factory, where the wage-earners

were "slaves of the master's bell." Today, Professor Chapman tells us, home work is bitterly denounced for turning the home into a factory, and hiding work away. The home workers consist chiefly of women: (a) single women, widows, deserted wives who, being without any support, are forced to earn their own living; (b) more or less casual women workers, who enter the market when the male bread winner is temporarily incapacitated or out of work; (c) the women of families depending mainly on male wage-earners, who do work in their homes to add to the family income or to make pin money for themselves. Male adults are in the minority. The claim is advanced that overwork, low wages, under-nourishment, and infectious diseases develop from this home work and unregulated industry. As an illustration of one phase of the problem, the following incident is given: Recently, the wages of 50 girls were reduced from £1 0s. 4d. a week to 9s. 10d.—a reduction of more than 50 per cent. Public opinion in this instance forced the employers to arbitrate the dispute. The employers admitted before the arbitration board that the new scale was not a living wage, but succeeded in proving, to the satisfaction of the arbitrators, that another firm was paying rates even lower than the reduced wages they proposed to pay. The employers agreed to return to the old scale, if the board could persuade their closest competitors to do likewise. Under the existing law, unfortunately, the voluntary arbitration board could not demand the attendance of the competing employers, and nothing could be done to stop the bitter competition. In the author's opinion, trade boards will tend to prevent similar occurrences, by aiming to correct the evils of sweating, and by removing the hardships of disorganization now suffered by home workers.

The final chapter is a somewhat technical discussion of the value of public aid in general. On the one hand are those who emphasize the importance of individual responsibility and self-direction. According to this view of the social organization, public aid is liable to undermine permanently the self-reliance of beneficiaries. Public aid may also shake the self-reliance of others, and encourage people to drift into pauperism. On the other hand, there is a respectable minority who insist that the social reactions from public aid have been grossly exaggerated, that poverty is due, not so much to defects of character, as to circumstances over which the indi-

vidual or family has had slight control, and, finally, that material relief from public funds is in most cases beneficial.

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*Principles and Methods in Commercial Education.* By JOSEPH KAHN and JOSEPH J. KLEIN. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1914. Pp. xiv, 439. \$1.40.)

The authors of this pioneer work deserve commendation for the service they have performed on behalf of secondary commercial education. This field of education is seriously handicapped by inefficient teachers, most of whom have been too hastily and inadequately trained for their work, or have been, without any special training, transferred from other fields of instruction. The result is, indefinite conceptions of the relative values and purposes of the subjects taught, and ignorance of pedagogic methods pertaining to particular subjects. This book on methodology can not fail to prove useful as a text on commercial pedagogy in normal training of commercial teachers, and as a basis for discussion in teachers' meetings in secondary commercial schools. It should also prove useful to superintendents and boards of education in their administration of commercial schools or departments.

About a third of the book is devoted to a discussion of general problems: the essentials and value of a business education; the curriculum of the secondary commercial school; the relation of the secondary commercial school to the higher commercial school and to the business community; the preparation and equipment of the commercial teacher; general principles of pedagogic method. The remainder of the book discusses the content and particular pedagogic methods of specific subjects of the curriculum: business arithmetic; office practice and routine; bookkeeping; accounting; commercial geography; technique of commerce; history of commerce; commercial law; economics; business English; stenography and typewriting. Following each chapter are questions and a bibliography.

It is inevitable that in such a pioneer work the chapters should run unevenly, and should present views with which there can be disagreement. But the book as a whole promises such usefulness for the accomplishment of its primary purpose that to enumerate points of disagreement would be petty.

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